



Kitsilano Community Centre Ice Rink and Fitness Centre

2690 Larch Street, Vancouver, BC V6K 4K9|
Telephone: 604.257.6976 Facsimile: 604.257.6996

Jointly Operated by Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
and Kitsilano War Memorial Community Centre Association

2019 Artists in Communities Community Centre Profile

This Community Centre Profile will serve as a description for artists to use in developing a project framework specific to the Community Centre.

Questions concerning this profile can be directed to:

Name of Centre: Kitsilano Community Centre Association
Address: 2690 Larch, Vancouver BC, V6K 4K9

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The Kitsilano Community Centre Association acknowledges we are on unceded Homelands of the x̱m̱əθḵʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), s̱kw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and seḻí̱w̱iṯuḻh (Tsleil Waututh) Nations. We hope to build a sustained relationship of mutual respect and understanding with local First Nations and the Urban Indigenous community.

The Kitsilano Community Centre (operated in conjunction with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation) is one of Vancouver's oldest community centres. The Kitsilano Community Centre Association (KCCA) works with other community organizations to balance opportunities and resources in order to encourage individuals and groups to participate in recreational activities that satisfy and improve the quality of everyday life.

The Kitsilano Community Centre has over hundreds people entering the building every day. Vancouver Parks Board staff and the KCCA Board of Directors, who are elected volunteers from both professional and non-professional backgrounds, strive to provide recreational and social services to the community. Together, decisions are made in the delivery of recreation and social programs to the neighborhood, as well as in the further development of the community.



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One initiative to spark interest within the community is the Centre promotion of the Kitsilano Community Centre Garden which sprouted in June 2014. It's a beautiful green space to educate and inspire community through collaborative learning, growing and sharing. The garden is as much about growing community and individuals as it is about growing plants. Anyone is welcome to use the informal seating area to chat with others, greet the volunteers who maintain the garden, or appreciate the miracles of nature in quiet contemplation.

The Mission Statement of the KCCA is:

Through the creation and management of resources and physical environments and working in partnership and cooperation with other community organizations, ensure an adequate balance of opportunities within the Kitsilano Community, for people, individually and collectively, to participate in a wide variety of recreation activities which satisfy basic needs and aid in improving the quality of community life.

For further information refer to our website: www.kitscc.com

Neighbourhood Description:

Kitsilano, named after Squamish Chief August Jack Khatsahlano runs along the south shore of English Bay, between popular Granville Island and Point Grey. Known locally as Kits, is synonymous with famous Kits Beach—named one of the "top 10 best city beaches in the world" by international travel magazines, and perfect for outdoor fitness. With a population of 40,595 people (as of 2006), the area is mostly residential with two main commercial areas, West 4th Avenue and West Broadway, known for their retail stores, restaurants and organic food markets.

At the turn of the century, the area from Burrard to Alma Streets was a dense, wild-life-filled forest, in spite of earlier logging. A salmon canning factory at the foot of Macdonald Street was once unable to cope with the "hundreds of thousands of salmon" caught in 1900. During the summer, dozens of vacationing tent campers -- many from the city's fashionable West End -- lined Kits Beach, then called Greer's Beach after one of the area's earliest settlers. East of the beach area was the Kitsilano Indian Reserve, on the site of today's Vanier Park. The Coast Salish village of Snaug was located on the shore of False Creek, slightly to the east of the Museum-Planetarium Complex.



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The CPR (which owned most of the land east of Trafalgar), the B.C. Electric Railway's streetcar line along 4th Avenue to Alma, and the Burrard Bridge built in 1932, all played a role in opening up Kitsilano. However, Kitsilano was not fully developed south to 16th Avenue until the late 1940s. During World War II, most of the old estates and many single-family homes along the slope above Kitsilano Beach were converted into rooming houses. They remained that way until the 1960s, by which time the area had become popular with university students and young people from throughout North America.

Present day, the neighborhood has played host to a number of annual events such as the Vancouver International Children's Festival, Bard on the Beach outdoor Shakespeare festival, and the Celebration of Light fireworks competition. Indigenous murals can be seen as the connection between the City of Reconciliation and the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. The goal is to expose the public to the culturally contemporary Indigenous artists that are present in today's society.

Kitsilano is the current or former home of a number of notable residents, including environmentalist David Suzuki, writers William Gibson and Philip K. Dick, actors Ryan Reynolds, Jason Priestley, and Joshua Jackson, ice hockey players Trevor Linden and Ryan Kesler, and comedian Brent Butt.

Kitsilano is home to a number of Vancouver's annual festivals and events in which the KCCA participates:

- Greek Day, held each June, is an annual street festival celebrating Greek culture and cuisine along several blocks of West Broadway, known as Vancouver's Greek-town.
- The Khatsahlano Street Party is held on 4th Avenue on a July Saturday.
- KitsFest is a sports and healthy living community festival that celebrates diversity and inclusiveness for all ages and walks of life early to mid August.
- Annual outdoor movie event every August which includes bouncy castles, arts and crafts, popcorn, live music and other activities for all ages and the evening movie once the sun sets.

We envision an art project that allows casual participation with a variety of ages and cultures that will be based out of the lobby, over a series of weeks. We feel that with our regular community traffic for our programs, fitness centre and facility as a whole. This location is ideal to not only draw people into our centre but attract them to unique and creative art projects that can bring people together.



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Community Interests & Issues:

1. Attract new people to come to the Community Center to participate in this project.
2. Provide a creative art project for all ages, demographics, and abilities.
3. Engage and enlighten current participants in our centre that wouldn't normally consider themselves artists.
4. Consideration of the historical and artistic area we are located in.
5. Physical Legacy – have (permanent/semi-permanent) artwork to display in the community centre
6. Social legacy – an art project that allows people to learn new skills, build relationships and community, cultivate an interest in the arts
7. Foster individuals' sense of creativity, expression, and celebration through a collaborative art project